



The Story of the Bible

GOD'S HEART FROM BEGINNING TO END.

What's on this term

Here's what's on this term at church and what you can pray for:

24th April - Kids Church Starts

29th April - Southside Youth Starts

9th May - Committee of Management meet

15-20 May - Staff away for Training Conference

21st May - Parenting in a digital world

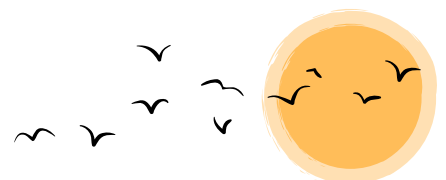
21st May - 28th May - Cleaning Week

Saturday morning, Tuesday or Wednesday night.

22nd May - Alpha starts

27-29 May - Youth Camp

29 May - Newcomers Morning Tea



What's in this book

Intro to the series

Study 1 - Creation

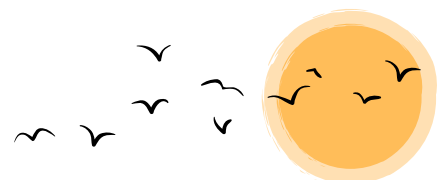
Study 2 - The Fall

Study 3 - Great Expectations

Study 4 - The Heart of God Revealed

Study 5 - In The Last Days

Study 6 - The End: Jesus Wins



Introduction

The Bible is one unified story. It is made up of many books, but on every page, we can see the threads of God's heart from beginning to end.

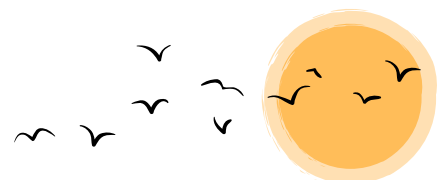
In this series we're going on a journey to look at the *story of the Bible*. We will see God's heart from beginning to end.

Our prayer is that through this journey we'll have a greater understanding of the Bible, and that this will help us grow as followers of Jesus, over the next term and into the rest of our lives.

Helpful Resources

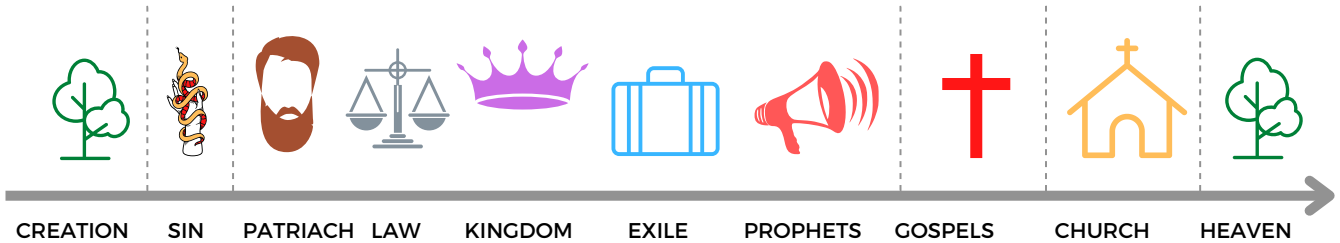


How to read the Bible Book by Book
Gordan D Fee and Douglas Stuart



Week 1 Creation - Genesis 2:4-25

Creation



Read 2:4-25 - Think, pair, share

What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?

Group time - Wrestle further

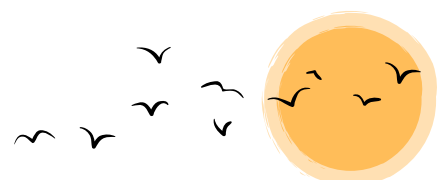
Who?

Who are the main characters (even the animals) and what do we learn about them? (keep in mind chapter 1)

What?

What is the order of creation (who rules over who? See also 1:26-31)?

What does this mean for the relationship between God and man? And man and animals?





Creation

Why?

There are only 2 chapters given to us that describe life before sin entered the world.

Why are they important? (Would we lose anything if we didn't have these chapters?)

Think back to your answer to the "think, pair, share" question at the beginning of the study. Now that you've wrestled with this passage, what else do you want to remember about God's character and yourself?

Creation - Prayer

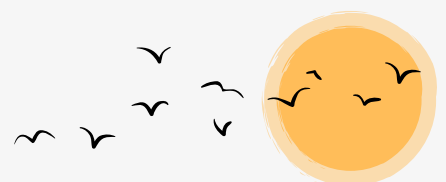
Prayer: (Break into groups of 3 to discuss and pray)
How has God been at work in your life this week?

How's your relationship with God?

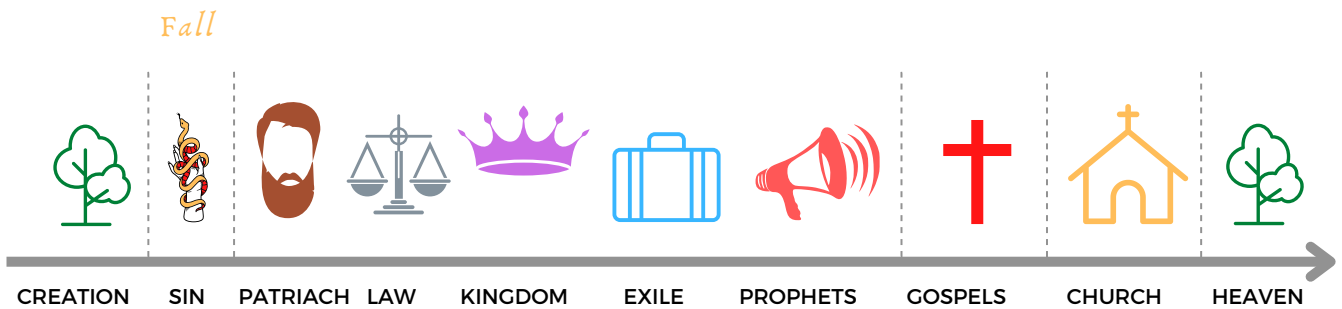
How are your relationships with others?

What do you want prayer for in relation to the study tonight?

What can we pray for you in relation to the people you're on mission to?



Week 2 The Fall - Genesis 3



Read Genesis 3:1-24 - Think, pair, share

What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?

Group time - Wrestle further

Who?

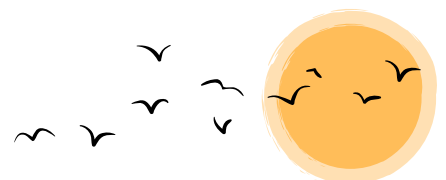
Who are the main characters and what do we learn about them?

What?

In what ways are each of the following offensive to God?

- They disobeyed God's command (vs 3)
- They ate fruit that made them spiritually dead (vs 5)
- They wanted to be like God (vs 5)
- They were walking around naked (vs 7)
- They didn't confess, but blamed others (vs 12-13)
- They reversed the order of creation (established in 1:28)
- Other

What does this tell us about the complexities of sin?





The Fall

What does this teach us about sin and its complexities?

Why?

Why did God punish the serpent, Adam and Eve so harshly? Was it deserved?

Why did God allow them to have life outside of the garden?

Why is it important to have a literal understanding of these events?

How do these chapters fit into the bigger story of the Bible? What would we lose if we didn't have them?

Think back to your answer to the "think, pair, share" question at the beginning of the study. Now that you've wrestled with this passage, what else do you want to remember about God's character and yourself?

The Fall - Prayer

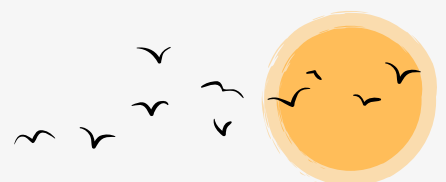
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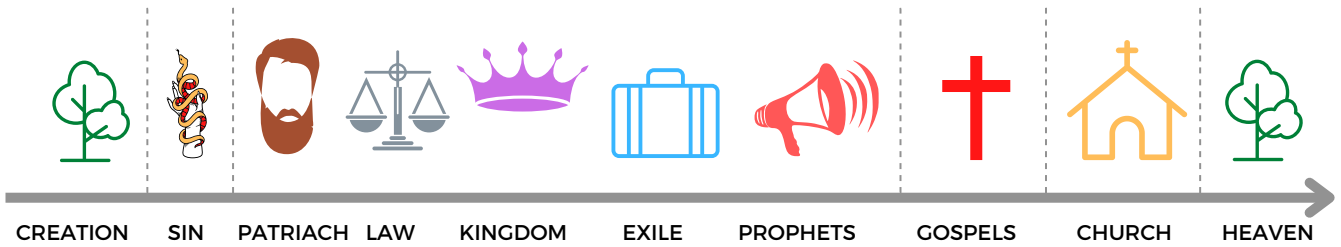
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Week 3 Great Expectations

Great Expectations



Read 1 Kings 10:6-9 & 11:4-13 - Think, pair, share
What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?

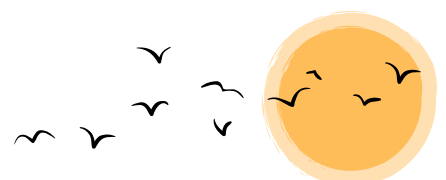
Group time - Wrestle further

Who?

Who are the main characters and what do we learn about them?

What?

Solomon was the high point in Israel's history. What part did Solomon play in Israel's success and failure? What part did God play?



Great Expectations

Why?

Why do you think Solomon did what he did, even though God had been so good to him?

How does this fit into the bigger story of the Bible?

Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-23.

The Old Testament is full of hopes and disappointments. What is God trying to teach His people?

How and why does God keep looking for a better relationship with His people?

Think back to your answer to the "think, pair, share" question at the beginning of the study. Now that you've wrestled with this passage, what else do you want to remember about God's character and yourself?

Great Expectations - Prayer

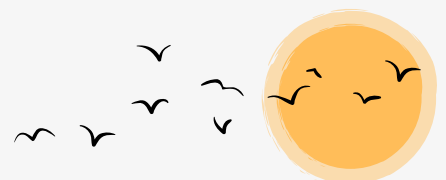
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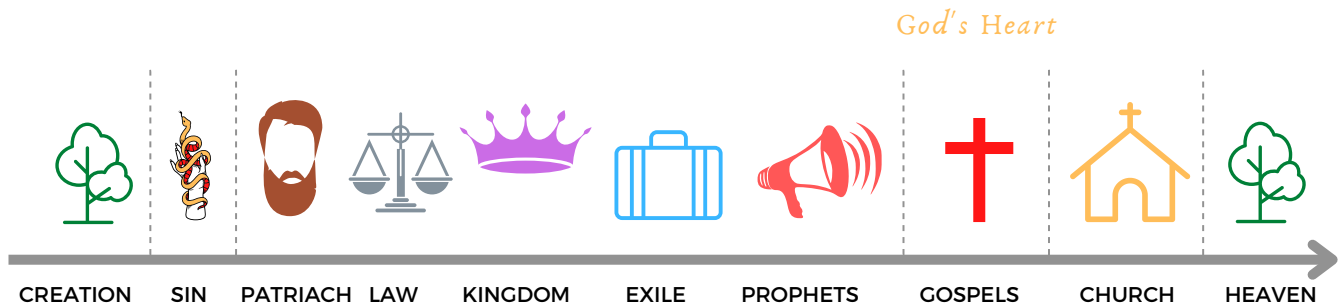
How are your relationships with others?

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Week 4 The Heart of God revealed



Read Acts 13:16-41 - Think, pair, share

What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?

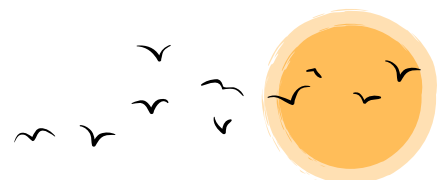
Group time - Wrestle further

Who?

Who are the main characters and what do we learn about them?

What?

What did Jesus achieve in His lifetime that had never happened in the history of humanity?





The Heart of God Revealed

Why?

Why was it important in this sermon to give so much Old Testament background? What difference does it make?

Why would God give Himself to fix humanity's (our) problem?

How does this fit into the bigger story of the Bible? (Luke 24:26-27)

Think back to your answer to the "think, pair, share" question at the beginning of the study. Now that you've wrestled with this passage, what else do you want to remember about God's character and yourself?

The Heart of God - Prayer

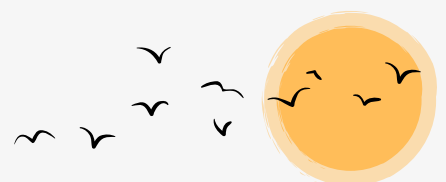
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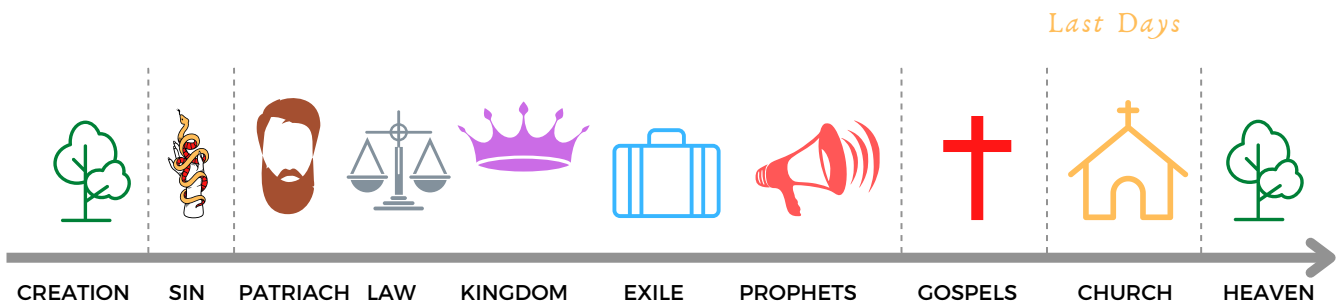
How are your relationships with others?

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What can we pray for you in relation to the people you're on mission to?



Week 5 - In the Last Days



Read Acts 2 Peter 3 - Think, pair, share
What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?

Group time - Wrestle further

Who?

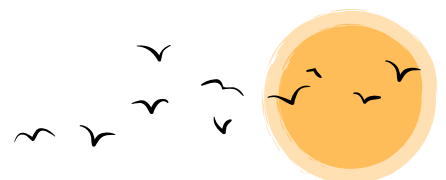
Who are the main characters and what do we learn about them?

What?

What promises are being referred to in vs 4, 9, 13?

Why?

Why is it important to keep looking to the past (vs 2, 5-7)?





The Last Days

Why is it important to look to the future?

Why should these things change our lives now?

How does this fit into the bigger story of the Bible?
(Hebrews 11:13-16)

Think back to your answer to the "think, pair, share" question at the beginning of the study. Now that you've wrestled with this passage, what else do you want to remember about God's character and yourself?

The Last Days - Prayer

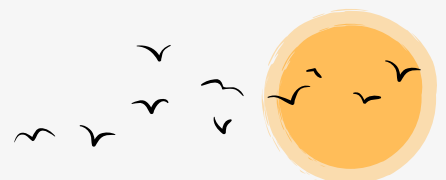
Prayer: (Break into groups of 3 to discuss and pray)
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How's your relationship with God?

How are your relationships with others?

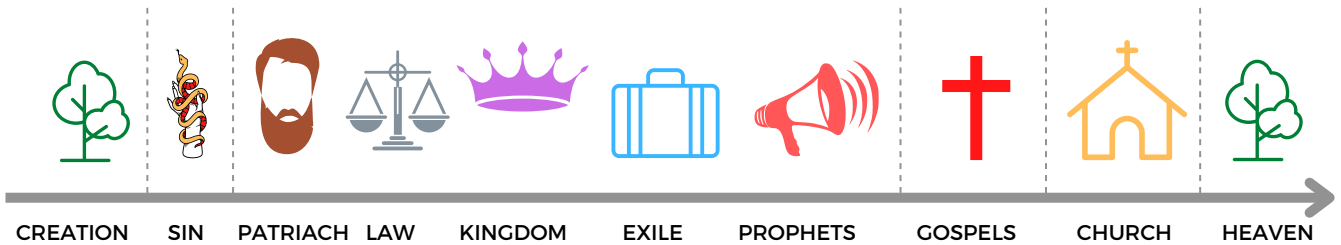
What do you want prayer for in relation to the study tonight?

What can we pray for you in relation to the people you're on mission to?



Week 6 - The End: Jesus Wins

The End



Read Revelation 21:1-8 - Think, pair, share

What does this passage teach us about God and ourselves?

Group time - Wrestle further

Who?

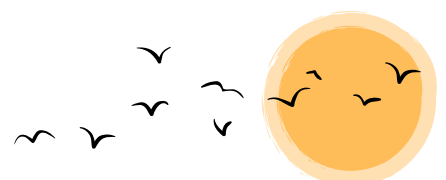
Who are the main characters and what do we learn about them?

What?

What is symbolic and what is literal in this picture of heaven? And what do they mean?

Why?

Why is this picture something worth living for? How is it an encouragement to us today?





The End: Jesus wins

How does this fit into the bigger story of the Bible?
Read Revelation 22:1-5.

What similarities and differences are there to the Garden of Eden?

Now that we know how the story ends, how does this help us understand God's heart for humanity?

For further thought. How does knowing how God fulfills His promises in Revelation help us to understand the rest of the Bible?

- God's promises to Abraham, Heb 11:8-16
- Israel's time in the promise land being short lived, Heb 4:1-11
- The Old Testament law, Rom 5:20-21
- Citizenship, exile and belonging, Phil 3:20-21
- The Church, Eph 5:25-27 and Rev 19:6-9 & 21:9

Think back to your answer to the "think, pair, share" question at the beginning of the study. Now that you've wrestled with this passage, what else do you want to remember about God's character and yourself?

The End - Prayer

Prayer: (Break into groups of 3 to discuss and pray)
How has God been at work in your life this week?

How's your relationship with God?

How are your relationships with others?

What do you want prayer for in relation to the study tonight?

What can we pray for you in relation to the people you're on mission to?

